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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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GONOR'S RELEASE

- Early in 1949, immediately prior to the R-14 Project¹ and during the last phases of the R-10 Project², it became known to the German scientists at Ostashkov, that General Gonor had been released from his position as director of NII 88 at Podlipki/Mytishchi. The reason for his dismissal was not made known. There had been no preliminary official announcement of Gonor's release, so [] regarded it as a normal administrative change.

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POSSIBLE REASONS FOR GONOR'S RELEASEDisciplinary Action

- Later, however [] some information [] give rise to the belief that Gonor's release was of a disciplinary nature, resulting from a technical experiment which received Soviet disapprobation.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3.

[redacted] The design of the R-113 called for a pressure gas sphere which subjected the propellants to the required feeding pressure. As this principle was, on the whole, technically undesirable, [redacted] considered substituting a system of powder gas feeding, whereby the required pressure was obtained by the combustion of a powder.

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4.

At that time [redacted] the Soviets did not approve of this solution and [redacted] a similar project had "broken the neck" of the highest Soviet official at NII 88, [redacted] referring to Gonor. [redacted] Gonor's dismissal followed shortly after [redacted] completion of a preliminary project. Requirements for the preliminary project had been submitted [redacted] in the fall of 1948, during the last stages of the R-10 Project. [redacted] only prepared a summary outline, since the Soviets planned to work independently on the project at Podlipki. The Soviet requirements for the missile specified the following: (1) it was to have a range and warhead like that of the A-4 [redacted]; (2) it was to have a conical shape; (3) it was to utilize the motor of the Wasserfall; (4) it was to use newly devised propellants; and (5) the principle of powder combustion was to replace the turbine of the A-4. This latter requirement explains [redacted] that Gonor had been responsible for the project using the powder combustion principle, and that this project had not been approved by the Soviet higher echelon. This may have been the cause for Gonor's dismissal as director of NII 88.

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Administrative Action

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[redacted] Gonor, a military leader, had originally been placed in charge of NII 88 because the research was of a military nature. Gonor had no technical ability and probably had little technical training, but since the position called primarily for organizational ability, a military person was not necessarily unsuitable. Furthermore, by 1949 the Soviets may have come to the conclusion that the position required someone with technical training, so that this person could be less dependent upon German technicians. This latter theory would seem plausible since the Soviet engineers were gradually replacing the German scientists in the laboratories and design offices at Gorodomlya during this period. Consequently, Gonor may have been returned to his former military unit in the natural course of administrative changes.

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[redacted]

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